



## California Department of Fish and Game Pronghorn Antelope Management Program 2004 Hunt Information

Wildlife Programs Branch  
1812 9th Street Sacramento, CA 95814

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### **PRONGHORN ANTELOPE – BIG VALLEY JUNIOR HUNT**

#### **GENERAL INFORMATION FOR HUNT ZONE**

This information has been prepared to assist people hunting antelope in Big Valley (Zone 5). The information should be useful for archery and rifle tag holders. Big Valley (Zone 5) is located in portions of Lassen, Modoc, Shasta, and Siskiyou counties.

#### **REGULATIONS**

Regulations are designed to conserve wildlife and to provide for an equitable distribution of game mammals. The hunter, who knows the laws and regulations, will enjoy the hunting experience more. All hunters should read and be familiar with the current hunting regulations available online at: [http://www.dfg.ca.gov/fg\\_comm/2004/mammalregs04.html](http://www.dfg.ca.gov/fg_comm/2004/mammalregs04.html)

To hunt pronghorn antelope in this zone, hunters must possess a Big Valley Junior Hunt tag. This tag is valid during the general season, and hunters are required to use an appropriate method of take specified in Title 14, Section 353. Season dates vary annually; thus, be sure to check the current regulations for the specific dates. Tag-holders wishing to hunt the Ash Creek Wildlife Area may contact Ash Creek Wildlife Area by telephone at (530) 294-5824, and shall attend an orientation meeting before hunting. Only persons possessing valid junior hunting licenses and junior hunt license tags may hunt during the junior pronghorn antelope hunt season in the Ash Creek Wildlife Area. Tag-holders shall be accompanied by a non-hunting, licensed adult chaperon 18 years of age or older while hunting.

To receive a tag for this hunt, hunters must plan ahead and are encouraged to submit pronghorn antelope tag applications by the first business day after June 1. For information regarding pronghorn antelope tag application procedures and obtaining a pronghorn tag for this area, see the Big Game Hunting Booklet, available online at: <http://www.dfg.ca.gov/licensing/biggame/biggamebook.html>

Successful hunters are reminded to immediately fill out both portions of the tag and permanently mark the date of kill, where they killed the animal, attach the tag to the antlers (or ears, if Antlerless), have the tag validated and countersigned, and **return the completed report card portion and pronghorn teeth to the department within one week after the close of the season. All hunters are required to return their report card portion, whether the hunt was successful or not.** Hunters are asked **not** to submit their pronghorn's teeth in any type of plastic wrapping; instead, send it in the envelope provided.

#### **LAND OWNERSHIP/ PUBLIC LAND OPPORTUNITIES**

Big Valley (Zone 5) contains a mixture of both public and private lands. Public lands within the zone are administered by the United States Forest Service (USFS); Lassen National Forest, 2550 Riverside Drive, Susanville, CA 96130, (530) 257-5381 and Modoc National Forest, 800 W 12th Street, Alturas, CA 96101, (530) 233-5811 and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM); 355 Hemsted Road, Redding, CA 96002, (530) 224-2100 and 2950 Riverside Drive, Susanville, CA 96130, (530) 257-5381. Hunters must obtain and have in their possession, written permission to hunt on private property. Hunter trespass laws are strictly enforced. For information regarding these lands, contact the following:

DFG Offices:

Northern California and North Coast Region Office at, 601 Locust Street, Redding, CA. 96001 (Phone: 530-225-2300; Fax: 530-225-2381).

#### USFS Offices:

Lassen National Forest, 2550 Riverside Drive, Susanville, CA 96130, (Phone: 530-257-4188)

Modoc National Forest, 800 W 12th Street, Alturas, CA 96101, (Phone: 530-233-5811)

#### BLM Offices:

Redding Field Office, 355 Hemsted Drive, Redding, CA 96002 (Phone: 530-224-2100; Fax: 530-224-2172)

Eagle Lake Field Office, 2950 Riverside Drive, Susanville, CA 96130 (Phone: 530-257-0456; Fax: 530-257-4831)

Throughout California, additional elk hunting opportunities may exist on private property licensed through the Department's Private Lands Management Program (PLM). For more information on the PLM, the primary species managed on each PLM, and to obtain a list of participating ranches, go to following link: <http://www.dfg.ca.gov/hunting/deer/plm.html>

#### MAPS

For general maps detailing individual zones or additional pronghorn hunt boundaries, go to the following link: <http://www.dfg.ca.gov/hunting/pronghorn/maps/bigvalley.pdf>

The most comprehensive map of the area is the BLM surface management maps. The BLM surface management maps for Big Valley (Zone 5) are the Alturas, Eagle Lake, and McArthur maps. You can purchase all of these maps or limit your purchase to only those areas you plan to hunt. United States Geological Service (USGS) topographic maps, are very helpful, especially to depict topographic features that are not displayed on USFS or BLM maps. USGS maps are usually available at backpacking and engineering stores or you can contact the USGS directly in Menlo Park, CA at (650) 853-8300. USGS maps are also available online at [usgs.gov](http://usgs.gov). USFS maps are available at all USFS offices or you can contact the USFS, 1323 Club Drive, Vallejo, CA 94592, (707) 562-8794; or order online at <http://www.fs.fed.us/recreation/nationalforeststore/>. BLM maps are also available at all BLM offices or you can contact the BLM at 2800 Cottage Way, Room E2841, Sacramento, CA 95825, (916) 978-4400; or at 2950 Riverside Drive, Susanville, California 96130, (530) 257-0456.

#### ACCESS/MAJOR ROADS

There are extensive tracts of public land with excellent access in Big Valley (Zone 5). Primary roadways are State Route 139 (eastern Zone 5), State Route 299 (central Zone 5) and State Route 89 (western Zone 5). Many USFS, BLM, and county roads branch off of these primary roadways providing excellent access to public lands.

#### TRAVEL TIPS

Big Valley (Zone 5) covers a large geographical area. The terrain can be very steep and rugged. As in all remote areas, hunters are urged to bring a shovel, a good spare tire, extra water, etc. Use care when operating any vehicle off road and check with the BLM or USFS for rules and regulations regarding vehicle and travel restrictions in the area.

#### WEATHER

The weather in this region is highly variable so **BE PREPARED**. The weather is usually quite hot and dry, but summer thunder storms are not uncommon. Thunder storms can make roads very difficult, if not impossible, to travel.

#### HARVEST INFORMATION

Historical information on pronghorn antelope harvest for this area is available in the table(s) at <http://www.dfg.ca.gov/hunting/pronghorn/bigvalleyjr.htm>. This statistical information may be useful for the purposes of planning and/or applying for pronghorn tags in this zone. Each table contains the specific

year, number of applications received, number of tags issued, number of pronghorn harvested, and the percentage of hunter success for each year.

### **CAMPING**

There are numerous designated campgrounds within Big Valley (Zone 5). The facilities available at these campgrounds vary from primitive campsites to campsites with running water. Most campgrounds are clearly marked on USFS and BLM maps. Camping outside of designated campgrounds is usually permitted on BLM and USFS lands. However, during fire season, special regulations may apply and it will be necessary to obtain a fire permit from the USFS or BLM. You can also check with the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection office for rules in specific areas. Please DO NOT CAMP at springs or other water sources that are important to wildlife and livestock. Remaining at artificial wildlife water sources (guzzlers) can be a Fish and Game violation. YOU can pack water--birds and animals cannot!

### **WHERE TO LOOK FOR ANTELOPE**

Pronghorn antelope use open areas with little cover. They are usually found in flat to rolling country, and not too far from water. Antelope run to gain distance from perceived threats. Unlike deer, they do not seek close hiding cover. When scouting or hunting for antelope, keep the sun at your back while it's low in the sky (morning or evening). Pronghorn antelope are usually very easy to see at distances of a mile or more under good light conditions.

Because pronghorn antelope are creatures of open habitats, you can hunt them all day. However, you run the risk of exhausting yourself. Try to pace yourself and concentrate hunting mornings and evenings. Stalking can be a long process, so remember to bring gloves, knee and elbow padding to protect you from sharp rocks. Binoculars and spotting scopes can be a great asset for observing antelope at long distances. Popular areas to look for pronghorn antelope are Fox Mountain, Big Valley, Pitville Flats, Beaver Creek, Bald Mountain, and Dixie Valley. Scouting other areas can help you locate an out-of-the-way site that may have less hunter pressure and fit your style of hunting.